

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 2043 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "Section 1. APPROPRIATION.

1.4 \$5,650,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,700,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from
1.5 the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture to develop and enhance markets for
1.6 Minnesota farmers. Of this amount:

1.7 (1) \$5,000,000 each year is for the agricultural growth, research, and innovation program
1.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.12, to develop and enhance farm-to-school markets
1.9 by providing more fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, grain, and dairy for children in school
1.10 and early childhood education centers, including, at the commissioner's discretion, providing
1.11 grants to reimburse schools and early childhood education centers for purchasing equipment
1.12 and agricultural products;

1.13 (2) \$150,000 each year is for a statewide coordinator of farm-to-institution strategy and
1.14 programming. The coordinator must consult with relevant stakeholders and provide technical
1.15 assistance and training for participating farmers and eligible grant recipients;

1.16 (3) \$50,000 in the second year is for an external evaluation of the farm-to-school program
1.17 described in clause (1). No later than February 1, 2026, the commissioner must submit the
1.18 evaluation report to the chairs and ranking minority members of legislative committees with
1.19 jurisdiction over agriculture policy and finance on the impact of the program and
1.20 recommendations for improvement; and

1.21 (4) \$500,000 each year is to award and administer grants to organizations that provide
1.22 community-based regional marketing assistance to farmers seeking to participate in
1.23 farm-to-institution markets. Preference will be given to organizations that will work with
1.24 community partners, economic development associations, state institutions, and other

2.1 appropriate stakeholders to scale local purchasing and processing across Minnesota,
2.2 prioritizing facilitating partnerships with beginning and emerging farmers to establish new
2.3 markets. This technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, education and outreach on
2.4 business planning and development; institutional food procurement standards and
2.5 requirements; postharvest handling practices, including the development of food safety and
2.6 good agricultural practices plans; and food production processes. Grantees will facilitate
2.7 partnerships between farmers and schools, early childhood education and care providers,
2.8 hospitals, restaurants, and additional potential markets. Grantees will also facilitate
2.9 connections to appropriate resources and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including
2.10 the Emerging Farmer Office of the Department of Agriculture. The commissioner may use
2.11 up to 6.5 percent of the allocation in this clause to administer the grants in this clause."

2.12 Delete the title and insert:

2.13 "A bill for an act

2.14 relating to agriculture; appropriating money to develop and enhance markets for
2.15 Minnesota farmers."